

Friendship

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BISHOP'S LETTER



I am fascinated by astronomy! On November 29, 2008 a bright star appeared in the sky, not the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem, but

the planet Venus. Jupiter could be seen too, and it was beautiful to observe them both. Then on December 12, 2008, the moon was 30% bigger and brighter than usual, because it was so close to the earth. When I see the beauty of our solar system, and hear all the scientific facts about the amazing speed of light etc, I am drawn to contemplate on my faith and the awesomeness of Almighty God. God's grace and power are even greater than anything we can imagine, and totally unlimited by time, space or distance. Anyone with holiness, humility and trust in Almighty God can receive God's comfort, healing, protection and embrace.

Although scientists tell us that the sun is gradually getting weaker and will one day die, we know that the true light of Christ is eternal, the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 22:13). The true light shines in the darkness and in our hearts, to reveal the weaknesses, the sins of our lives. I have just discovered that the word 'evil' written backwards is 'live'. May the true light of Christ lead us to turn from evil to live!

We have just celebrated the joy of Christmas, the joy that the Son of God brings through His salvation, the joy that comes through receiving the gift of God's Son into our lives. Let this Christmas joy not just be restricted to the Christmas season, but every day. May the hands that were outstretched at Christmas to receive from others, now be turned over to give to others. In 2003 in Tokyo, many artists donated their pictures for sale to raise money for orphans in Afghanistan. Like those artists, our talents become gifts when we offer them to others. May we reach out to give to others in this New Year, and may God give us courage to follow Christ on the road of love, joy and peace.

Happy New Year!



Bishop David J. H. Lai at St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung

BISHOP AND MRS. LILY LAI: FAMILY NEWS

Mrs. Lily Lai continues to serve as Supervisor of Good Shepherd Kindergarten, Taipei, in a voluntary capacity, as well as accompanying Bishop Lai on his travels around the Diocese and overseas. Her father is still alive, now aged 82, although he has been in poor health ever since a stroke 25 years ago.

Their elder son, Paul, is a first-year student at General Seminary, New York, preparing to serve in the Episcopal Church in the USA as a priest, supported as a missionary sent by the Diocese of Taiwan.

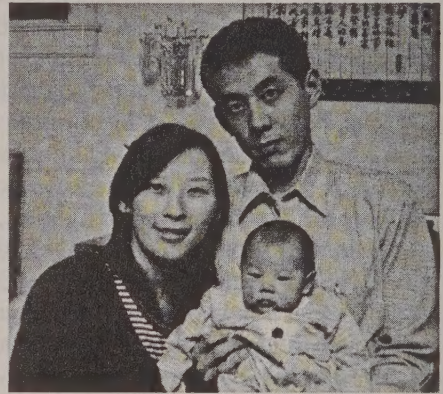


Bishop Lai and Lily are delighted that Paul's wife, Lydia, has just given birth to their first child (Bishop and Lily's first grandchild), a daughter, on November 3, 2008. The baby's name is Amber (Chinese

name: 賴明理 Lai Ming-Li). Bishop and Lily are looking forward to seeing baby Amber for the first time in March on their next visit to USA for the House of Bishops.

Paul, Lydia and Amber (shown in the photos) continue to live in Flushing, New York. This year Paul is doing his fieldwork placement at Grace Church, Brooklyn. His spiritual tutor is retired bishop, the Rt. Rev. Richard Shimfky, presently acting rector of St. George's Church, Flushing, New York.

Bishop and Lily's younger son, Andrew, lives and works in New Jersey, USA, at the New Tokyo Bank, part of the Mitsubishi Financial Group.



DIOCESAN FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Diocese has set up a new corporative body, the name of which translates from Chinese as the 'Taipei Christian Episcopal Gospel Foundation'. This will greatly aid accounting procedures and make financial transactions much more efficient. The Foundation was officially registered on December 31, 2008.

There are 5 purposes of this Foundation:

1. Nurture and training of clergy and evangelists
2. Nurture and training of lay people
3. Charity, education and social work
4. Evangelism and mission, within Taiwan and overseas
5. Publication of teaching and evangelism materials

DIocese OF TAIWAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As we thank God for His many blessings in this past year, 2008, we also look forward to 2009. The vision of the Diocese of Taiwan is to depend on the Lord to build an evangelistic and outreaching church. At the clergy autumn retreat held in October 2008 at St. James' Church, a new diocesan development plan was discussed and formulated.

We have a new five-year plan, and also a new lectionary to start in 2009, and the next year is to be devoted to training. Our long-term vision is that in 10 years time we could become two dioceses in Taiwan. Eventually we hope one day to become three dioceses and thus to establish our own province.

To reach the first of these goals, each church member in the diocese is being challenged and encouraged to bring one person to church, for that person to be baptized and

to become an active church member. At the same time, each mission or church in the diocese is being challenged to grow itself into a parish, and each parish is being challenged to reach out and start a new mission station.

For the next 5 years, the diocese will focus on the following themes (the originals are in Chinese, each 4 characters long):

2009 Training

2010 Heartfelt Worship

2012 Devotion to the Lord of the whole family, not just individuals

2013 Whole church being involved in service

2014 Evangelism

Please join us in praying that this vision could become a reality!

NEWS IN BRIEF

In October 2008, the diocese welcomed the President of Province VIII, Rev John Eastwood and his wife, Mr. Peter Ng and Mrs. Mimi Wu ~ shown in this photo along with Mrs. Lily Lai and Rev Diane Wong.

Seth and Elizabeth Raymond, Young Adult Missionaries of The Episcopal Church, who were assigned to Taiwan in September 2008, left earlier than expected and returned to their home in Colorado, USA, on December 26, due to personal reasons. We thank Seth and Elizabeth for their service and we pray for them as they settle back in USA.

Bishop and Lily Lai are leading a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land over the Chinese New Year vacation, Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

At their recent Diocesan Synod, The Diocese of Osaka, Japan, agreed to renew their Companion Diocese Agreement with the



Diocese of Taiwan for a further 3 years. A group from the Diocese of Osaka, including their new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Samuel Osamu Onishi, will travel to Taiwan for our Annual Diocesan Synod to be held March 6-7 in Kaohsiung. The new agreement will be signed at the synod.

The Diocese of New Westminster, Vancouver, Canada, has also agreed to renew their Companion Diocese Agreement with the Diocese of Taiwan for a further 5 years. Bishop and Lily Lai are planning to attend the New Westminster Diocesan Synod in May 2009 to sign this new agreement.

Miss An-Veng Loh: December 25, 1918 – October 8, 2008



Miss An-Veng Loh (陸安文) died on October 8, 2008 in California, USA, a few months before her 90th birthday. Her funeral was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda, California. Although she only lived in Taiwan for 7 years, she became a great friend

to many and a blessing to the church in Taiwan. Some of the senior clergy in Taiwan continued to correspond with her until a few years ago when she moved to a nursing home as her memory failed. All remember her for the deep and lasting impression she made on their lives.

Ms. Loh was a native of Shanghai, Mainland China, and a graduate of St. Mary's Hall, Shanghai, later immigrating to the USA. Aged 41, she arrived in Taiwan in 1959, as a missionary from the American Episcopal Church, to serve as the Director for Religious Education.

At that time, there were 7 Episcopal churches in southern Taiwan, but only 2 clergy, one based at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, and one at All Saints' Church, Kang-shan. Although she later lived in Kaohsiung, actually for most of her time in Taiwan Ms. Loh lived in Chia-Yi, under the supervision of Rev Samuel T. T. Chen. He remembers Ms. Loh well. She was a woman of strong character, very determined, who always worked hard, and who was very generous with her time and resources. She ran many of the summer camps for the diocese. Bishop David Lai was a teenager at the time, and remembers attending some of those summer camps. He was once taken seriously ill during a camp, and needed to be hospitalized, but the only room available at the hospital was a first-class room. He only found out

many years later that Ms. Loh had paid for him to stay in that first-class room from her own funds, even being willing to incur the wrath of then Bishop James C. L. Wang, who thought it was way too expensive! Out of her own money too, she also bought each seminarian a copy of the commentary: 'Interpret the Bible'. Those seminarians included Rev. Charles Chen and Rev. Michael Liu, both now retired.

Rev. Charles C. T. Chen remembers Ms Loh as an excellent pioneer missionary, full of kindness and missionary enthusiasm. Bishop Charles P. Gilson treated Ms Loh like his own daughter, but as she was also very determined and would accept no compromise, this led her into conflict later with Bishop Wang. Charles Chen says that she was particularly good to the group of Episcopal seminarians. At the time there were more than 10 Episcopal seminarians at Tainan Theological College, the largest group, and she would come almost every week to visit them, to encourage them and to give gifts of fruit. She showed them great care and concern, her home was always open, and she was gracious in welcoming visitors for meals. Both her Chinese and English language were very good and she adapted many children's Bible stories herself which the seminarians used on the summer camps to teach the children.

Charles Chen believes all the seminarians received lots of training from Ms Loh, as she was the best trainer in the whole diocese. She was the first and only full-time Director of Religious Education in the diocese, but after she left, the position was taken by a priest on a part-time basis, and was never the same again. Charles and his wife continued to stay in contact with her after she returned to the USA and visited her 3 times in her home in California. On one visit she arranged for Charles and his

wife to meet a surprise visitor, a great admirer of Charles, who turned out to be a former member of St. Peter's. He can never forget Ms Loh's kind care and concern.

Ms Loh was also a good friend to the Rev. Henry Pan and his family. They had come from Mainland China to live in Taiwan. At that time no contact between Taiwan and Mainland China was allowed, and this included letters and financial help. It was impossible to send a letter or money from Taiwan to China and vice versa. So Ms Loh, as an American citizen, was able to help those clergy from Mainland China to keep in touch with their relatives by sending their letters and money gifts via the USA.

Ms Loh also did a lot of work with the Altar Guild and the women's groups in both Kang-shan and Chia-Yi, and in Gou-Bei Mission too. She taught them handicrafts and gave them a lot of training. The All Saints Altar Guild at Kang-shan was famous in the diocese for their skills!

Later Ms Loh brought her nephew and niece

from Shanghai to live with her in Chia-Yi and to attend the local elementary school; and it was partly for the sake of their high school education that she left Taiwan in 1966 to take the children to the USA. Her nephew became a doctor, and her niece became a nurse. Without Ms Loh's help this would not have been possible. She also helped many Taiwanese who wanted to go to the USA to study. At that time it was very difficult to do this, and she gave a lot of practical help to them.

The diocese offers sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Loh in their bereavement. The following prayer is the blessing used at her funeral service: 'Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us: So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind, And may the Divine Mystery Who is beyond our ability to know but Who made us, and Who loves us, and Who travels with us, Bless us and keep us in peace. Amen.'



Tribute from Rev. Peyton Craighill

I remember well my first impression of An-Veng. Several months after I began my mission in Taiwan, I was waiting in the Taipei Airport for her to disembark from her flight from America. Suddenly I saw her emerge, with her unforgettable smile, forthright presence, and open, friendly, self-assured spirit. I knew at once that here was a great gift to the Taiwan Episcopal Church.

As our years working together rolled on, my first impressions were confirmed. She was a great gift from God to our struggling little diocese. Her Chinese birth and upbringing meant that, from the beginning, she could engage in depth with life in Taiwan. Her many years of study and work in America equipped her with invaluable experiences and skills - particularly in Christian educa-

tion - that were just what we needed. But there was more - her deep devotion to Christ, her joy in serving his mission, and her commitment to sharing him with others made all of us who associated with her better servants of God.

I was especially aware of An-Veng's presence in the wonderful work that she did with summer camps. She was responsible both for organizing and administering them - for seeding, watering, and harvesting. Yet the best feature of the camps was that she enabled everybody to pitch in and make the experience a collective, Spirit-filled, happy event. Thanks to An-Veng, many of the leaders in our diocese today began their journey in Christ with her as their guide. "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Rev. Samuel T. T. Chen shares his testimony!



In interviewing Rev. Samuel T. T. Chen for the above tribute to Ms. Loh, it was impossible to ignore the testimony of Rev. Samuel Chen himself. It was fascinating to hear him speak of his own early life, and his experiences as a priest in Taiwan, especially in those early years.

The Rev. Samuel T. T. Chen is now the oldest priest in the Taiwan Episcopal Church! He will be 85 this coming year, and still manages to get out and about from his 3rd floor apartment (with no elevator!) in Nei-Hu, Taipei City, where he lives with wife, one of their sons, and their 20 year-old Dalmatian dog! He warmly welcomed us to visit him for this interview.

Rev. Samuel Chen was born in Chih-Nan, Shang-Dong Province, Mainland China in 1924. He was the only son of devout Buddhist parents. One of his ancestors had been an official in the Chi'ing Dynasty Court and in accordance with the law at the time (that government officials should not serve in their home province), they were sent to Shang-Dong. Samuel himself was sent to the Roman Catholic Fu-Jen High School and later Fu-Jen University in Beijing, and it was here that he first came into contact with Christianity and was baptized as a Christian. In 1946, when he was 22 years old, he came to Taiwan in order to accompany his great aunt on a trip to visit her son, who was then living in Kaohsiung. That changed his life, because like many other young men at the time, he was never able to go back to Mainland China. It was the end of the Second World War, the Nationalist government in Mainland China was very unstable and the Communists were on the move, and as a result he stayed on in Taiwan.

Samuel started to worship at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kaohsiung, and he was confirmed by Bishop Kennedy. As a semi-

narian he attended the Presbyterian Theological College in Tainan, where he was

forced to study extra hard since all the classes were in the Taiwanese language, which he couldn't speak! However it was through his teachers there that he met the lady who would become his wife. His wife was from a Taiwanese Presbyterian family who had been Christians for several generations. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi.

Over their years of ministry they served in all the southern churches, and later at St. John's Cathedral in Taipei City. However, looking back over his many years of service, Samuel reflects that their happiest years were at St. Peter's, Chia-Yi. At that time, there were about 60 church members at St. Peter's, mostly Air Force families from Mainland China who were stationed in Chia-Yi, and all speaking Chinese. The church members were enthusiastic and worked hard. Samuel would walk around dressed in his long black cassock, to help people identify him, and he really enjoyed his ministry there.

Their twin sons were born in Chia-Yi and their daughter was born later in Taipei. The then bishop suggested that as regards English names for his children, that he give them names beginning with A, B and C, in order of their birth. So their eldest twin son is Anson, the second twin is Basil and their daughter is Claire.

Rev. Samuel Chen is a great source of knowledge and stories of the early days of the Taiwan Episcopal Church. Professor Mei-Mei Lin is researching the history of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, and was thrilled to have this chance to visit Rev. Samuel Chen!

'VOCATION AND MINISTRY' ~ Testimony of Rev. Samuel K. L. Liao

My favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28: **'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose'**. I find this verse very moving, and it continues to inspire me as I look back over my life and think of the variety of experiences I have had. My journey of faith has not been easy, and yet I feel it is a great honour and privilege to serve as an Anglican priest. Being a priest in the Anglican Communion and sharing in this long tradition and heritage makes me so proud. How I long to improve this sense of Anglican identity and consciousness within the Taiwan Episcopal Church! In my retirement, this is my burden and prayer for the church, that our clergy and church members may learn more of this unique Anglican identity.



But how did I reach this point in my spiritual journey? Let me start at the beginning. I am a 'second-generation Mainlander', born in Mainland China in 1947. My Chinese name is 'King -Ling', the old name of Nanking, where my parents were married. My father was in the Nationalist Chinese Air Force and in 1949 we came to Taiwan, leaving behind our ancestors and the traditions of ancestor worship. My parents were not particularly religious, and my first contact with the Christian gospel was at Feng-Chia University in Taichung. I can still remember the 'Campus Crusade for Christ' meetings that were held every Monday evening on the campus. During my second year I started to attend those meetings with 2 purposes in mind, firstly to learn English, secondly to make friends. I also joined the Student Fellowship because of the missionaries who were there working among the students. My major was in International

Trade, on my father's advice. One of my classmates invited me to live in their student dormitory accommodation, which was run by the Mennonite Church.

On Easter Day, March 29 1970, in my third year at university, I was baptized by Rev. Simon Wung in the Mennonite Church. Even now I regard him as the most influential person in my whole life; he supported and encouraged me even when later I decided to join the Anglican Church. My first contact with the Anglican Church was through Rev. Wang Shien-Tz, then vicar of St. James' Church. He used to come to the Student Fellowship to preach.

After graduation I was assigned to military service and it was during this time that I felt called to ordination. First though I went to work for China Airlines in

Kaohsiung Airport as a Traffic Agent. For over 3 years I handled the incoming and outgoing planes. In Kaohsiung however I faced 2 problems, firstly I rarely had a Sunday off so hardly ever went to church, and secondly there was no Mennonite Church in Kaohsiung.

While at China Airlines, I also met the lady who would become my wife, Su San-Su (Susan). She worked in the downtown office of China Airlines and unlike me, was of Taiwanese descent. Although she was not a Christian, we got married in a Presbyterian Church in Kaohsiung. For her parents, it was their first ever visit to a church. I encouraged my wife to take part in a Bible Correspondence School, and the school sent 2 women to visit her, both Baptists. As I was not free to go to church on Sundays, my wife started to go to their church, and a year after we were married, she was bap-

tized in the Baptist Church. She continued to support and encourage me throughout my ministry, and was a very good priest's wife! We are a very multi-denominational family. After their retirement, both my parents were baptized in Taipei, my mother in a Lutheran Church, and my father in the Mission Alliance Church. One of my sisters was baptized in the Little Flock. The other 2 are not yet Christians. None of my wife's family are Christians, and that includes her parents who are both still alive and in their 80's.

One day at work in Kaohsiung Airport I bumped into Rev Wang Shien-Tz, seemingly by chance. He encouraged me to join the Anglican Church so I started to attend St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung. Through the Rev. Wang and the Rev. Peyton Craighill, I was eventually recommended to the Commission on Ministry for ordination. They also suggested I should be confirmed, and so my wife and I were confirmed by Bishop James Pong on June 5, 1977 in Grace Church, Tainan (because by then we had moved to Tainan Theological College).

I was ordained deacon on September 21, 1980 and served at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei for a year under the Rev. Samuel T. T. Chen. We then moved to St. Mark's Church, Pingtung, where I was ordained priest on July 12, 1981 by Bishop P. Y. Cheung. We stayed there 5 years including one year (1984) when I was at St. John's Theological College in Auckland, New Zealand studying 'Anglicanism'. We then spent 4 years at Trinity Church, Keelung, then 3 years at St. Andrew's in Chie-Ding when I was also in charge of the 30 or so students at St. Michael's Hostel, Tainan. I spent 6 months in Trinity College, Singapore doing further study, then served as Acting Rector of Good Shepherd Church, Taipei for a year, followed by 4 years at St. Luke's Church, Hualien. Finally I became Rector of All Saints Church, Kangshan for 9 years, before my retirement last year. From utmost east to west, utmost north to south, we have lived in all 4 corners of the

Taiwan Diocese! However out of all these places, the most fulfilling was the time we spent in All Saints, Kangshan, when I was also Dean of Trinity Hall, the Diocesan Center for Theological Studies, as well as serving as Dean of the southern Deanery.

In summary I can say that I have an evangelical faith ~from my days of Campus Crusade and the Student fellowship, a Calvinistic theology ~from my training at Tainan Theological College, and I like the Catholic tradition ~from the Episcopal Church liturgy and hierarchy! I love the Anglican Church for its 'middle way'; it is not extreme in any direction. Confucianism also follows the middle way in lifestyle and thinking, in contrast to Korea and Japan. I love history too and enjoy reading about the history of England and the Anglican Church, always in English as there are so few books on this subject in Chinese.

In my retirement I continue to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, and to act as Spiritual Adviser to Mr. He Ray-En, one of our seminarians. My wife and I are now faithful members of the congregation of Grace Church, Tainan; my wife also teaches flower arranging and Chinese knotting. Our daughter is 30 and lives with us, plays the organ at Grace Church, and works in biochemical research in Tainan Science Park. Our son is 26 and studying for his Masters degree in Computer Science at Keelung Ocean University. My only regret in all my years of ministry was to my parents. I invited them to come and live with us, but they could not accept the frequent moving from place to place every few years. They said that I always take good care of my parishioners but not my parents! I still regret the little time that I was able to spend with them during their lives. My total ministry was 27 years and 4 months, and I know that throughout that whole time, that Romans 8:28 has been my true experience. God does indeed work through all things for the good of all those who love him!

'A Journey with Abundant Harvests' — Studying in Hong Kong Sept –Dec. 2008 Rev. Keith Lee (vicar of St. Peter's Church)

I want to thank God for His Grace that four years after I was ordained, I could be assigned to the Ming-hua Theological College, of the Hong Kong Anglican Church, for these past 3 months. I attended the college, assisted at the Services at St. John's Cathedral (Diocese of Hong Kong Island), and also observed some diocesan/provincial special events and worship. I want to share with you some chief experiences:

Life in Ming-hua Theological College

The college name 'Ming-hua' commemorates the English bishop He Ming-hua (the Rt. Rev. Ronald O. Hall), who was the 7th bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macau. The college was started for the purpose of training lay Christian people; later it became a theological training center to cultivate people who wish to test their vocations for the ministry.

My main subject of study at Ming-hua was 'liturgy', to make up for my serious insufficiency in liturgical study since I did my theological study in the Presbyterian seminary at Tainan. I attended classes taught by the Dean, the Very Revd Canon Ian Lam, on "History of Christian Worship" and "Liturgical Practicum" along with other seminarians. I want to give him my special thanks because despite being so busy, he also gave me individual tutorial classes. He particularly concentrated on liturgical elements, the development of the Catholic liturgy, the form and development of the Book of Common Prayer, initiation and confirmation, marriages, funerals...etc, I learned so much from him. A rich 'harvest' indeed. He used many examples from real life,

and taught in a very humorous and lively way, so the classes became more brilliant, more vivid, and also easier to understand.

Besides the classes, the college life also gave me lots of profound impressions. The college as a worshipping community seeks to cultivate, nurture, and form a liturgical and spiritual life integrated into a person's whole being. The day began with Morning Prayer followed by communal breakfast with the college chaplain, when we could share and talk with others. Compline is held every Tues. and Thurs. evening, the college Eucharist is held every Wed. afternoon, and Bible study and sharing with the chaplain are held every Fri. morning.

Especially for me, I became very fond of the Bible study and the time sharing with the chaplain on Friday mornings. By turn, the Dean and the college chaplain lead the seminarians to study the Bible, to share about church ministry and family life, and also to discuss about the problems in church and society and how we can face them. The college, both the faculty and students, is like a big family, living, sharing, and growing up together. As well as lectures, the



Staff and students at Ming-hua Theological College.
Rev. Keith Lee is standing third from left

college believes an important key element in testing one's vocation for ministry is the communal life of the college. The communal life is centered on worship, fellowship, and also eating, sharing, working together as a community, I do believe that this is an essential and a significant element of training for Anglican clergy.



complete liturgy of St. John's.

At St. John's, the most unique experience for me was learning how to use incense in worship, because the Mandarin service uses incense every Sunday. I didn't have any experience of

this before I went to Hong Kong, but through Rev. Lam's lectures on "Liturgical Practicum", my observations in the services, and through serving as a celebrant in the services, I could quickly learn and catch on. It was one of my most important 'harvests'. Furthermore, I also attended some special worship services at St. John's, such as Celtic worship, Iona Eucharist, Taize worship, the Ordination service, All Saints' Day worship, the Eucharist of the Commemoration of the Deceased on All Souls' Day, the Mass of Christ the King, Holy Baptism and Confirmation service, infant baptism, Advent Carol Service...etc. In addition, the cathedral is built in a similar style to cathedrals in England, so it also helped me indirectly to understand many things about the Church of England.

Services at St. John's Cathedral

The seminarians went to different parishes to do their field work, and I was assigned to the Mandarin-speaking fellowship of St. John's Cathedral and their chaplain, Rev. Peter Koon, (shown in the photo above, with me on the right). St. John's Cathedral is an international church, English is the chief language and most of the parishioners are foreigners. St. John's also has Cantonese, Mandarin and Filipino Services. Moreover, it has three daughter churches, all English speaking: St. Stephen's Chapel in Stanley, Emmanuel Church in Pokfulam, and the Discovery Bay Church on Lantau Island. Mandarin Worship is the 4th service of 7 on a Sunday, for now it is also the only service in the whole Hong Kong Anglican Church that exclusively uses only Mandarin. In September, I started by observing and assisting in the services, then I was assigned to be the celebrant and the preacher from October onwards. Sometimes I also attended the 3rd service which is English Sung Eucharist. The liturgy of the English service is based on "Common Worship" which was published by the Church of England in 2000, while the liturgy of the Mandarin service is based on the Second Rite of the Book of Common Prayer compiled by ECUSA in 1979. Regardless of whether it was the British or American prayer book, all have been passed down from the catholic liturgical traditions for hundreds of years, so I felt nothing unfamiliar; contrarily I could plunge into the service through the

The Weekly Clergy Conference

The provincial clergy conference is held at St. John's Cathedral on the first Thursday of each month. On the other Thursday mornings, the 3 dioceses of the Province: Hong Kong Island, Eastern Kowloon, Western Kowloon, separately have their own clergy conferences at St. John's, Holy Trinity Church, and All Saints' Church. I attended the clergy conference of Hong Kong Island Diocese at St. John's every Thursday. As many of the cathedral's clergy are from overseas, there is also synchronal English translation during the conference; it helps those who could not understand Cantonese to be able to understand, including myself.

Hong Kong is not a big place, so it's not difficult for clergy to be assembled together.

The clergy conference begins with Holy Eucharist followed by communal breakfast, then Bible study. The Scriptures discussed are taken from the lectionary for the coming Sunday, the clergy listen, share, explore ideas with others, and thus make their forthcoming sermon more abundant in ideas and thoughts. Following this is a seminar, on a different subject every week. Some subjects that were talked about during my stay in Hong Kong were: Introduction to the All Souls' Liturgy, how churches deal with Halloween, the history of the elementary and junior high schools affiliated to the Hong Kong Anglican Church, the management and the tactics of educational academies, reflections on relief to victims of the Sichuan earthquake, introduction to good reference books, internet technology and the ministry, diocesan future plans...etc.

One very special seminar was the 3 Hong Kong bishops giving a detailed talk about their experiences at the Lambeth Conference. I was very moved that all the clergy discussed and deliberated about the reasons, obvious and less obvious, for the disunity of the Anglican Communion and acknowledged the weakness of human beings and the need for God's mercy. The talk also deliberated about some important traditions or values that should be respected in the Anglican Communion. Then a step further, the clergy also shared some doable actions which Hong Kong Anglican Church can do for the Anglican Communion; they wish they can do something to help the whole Communion to be reconciled and united in the future.

The 10th Anniversary of the Province of Hong Kong and Macau

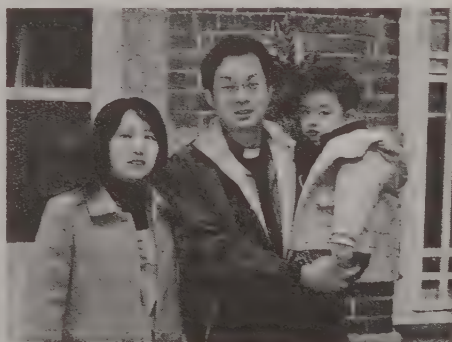
I was very pleased that the 10th anniversary of the Province of Hong Kong and Macau happened during my stay in Hong Kong. I was honored that I could represent the Diocese of Taiwan to attend the 10th anniversary thanksgiving services separately held in Diocese of Eastern Kowloon, Diocese of

Western Kowloon, and the Province of Hong Kong and Macau. The Anglican Church has been ministering in Hong Kong for over 160 years, and Hong Kong Anglican Church is the smallest Province in the Anglican Communion. There were thanksgiving services and celebration events, also a Sports Day held at St. Stephen's College, known as Provincial Olympic Games. There were over 2,000 people (including Bishop David Lai and his wife) who joined in the games and the whole event was a great success bringing people together for fun and relaxation, and a little bit of competition between parishes. Also, another event is being held lasting throughout the year, in which the Province invites the clergy and lay people to share their spiritual reflections, and can be read in the weekly "Provincial Echo".

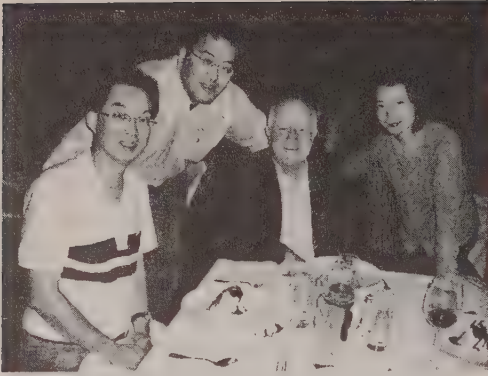
Hong Kong Anglican Church also published a 10th anniversary memorial Bible; a Chinese Bible which also contains the Apocrypha. In addition, the Liturgy and the Sacred Music Committee of the Province are now editing a worship hymnal. The Province expects that the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, and the Hymnal can be "3 in 1" (Trinity).

With Many Heartfelt Thanks

Through the Rites in the services, the teaching of the Scripture and the accumulation of tradition passed down from generation to generation, I feel so honored to be an Anglican priest. As I learned more and more on



Rev. Keith Lee with his wife and son



the journey of this historical and liturgical study, I also felt deeply that tradition and liturgy have become more valuable and respectable in my mind, and I also found there are still lots of lessons I need and want to learn. May this awareness be a thrust to help me unceasingly to keep learning in the future.

I want to give my gratitude to the Most Rt. Rev. Paul Kwang, Archbishop of the Province of Hong Kong and Macau; the Dean, the Very Rev. Cn. Ian Lam and his spouse; the Rev. Desmond Cox, the college chaplain (shown in the above photo, with me at my birthday party!); and all the faculty of Ming-hua Theological College. They all gave me the most meticulous arrangement and attendance in looking after me. I also

want to give thanks to the Very Rev. Cn. Andrew Chan, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, he gave me an opportunity to practically serve at St. John's; and thanks to the Rev. Peter Koon, Provincial Secretary General and chaplain to the Mandarin fellowship at St. John's Cathedral, he arranged the service and church work for me, and also gave me lots of help during my stay. I also give thanks for the hospitality and concern of all the other clergy, seminarians, and church friends.

I want to give my gratitude to my bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Lai that I could take this opportunity to study in Hong Kong; it helped me learn a lot of lessons. Thanks too to the Rev. Jason Ke, who was in charge of St. Peter's Church while I was studying abroad; and the Rt. Rev. John Chien who also helped St. Peter's a lot in Sunday services. Thanks to the Rev. Leo Tzeng, who gave me much information, many suggestions, and help before I left for Hong Kong, and finally special thanks to my wife for her patience during my absence. She continued to live at St. Peter's, taking care of our 2-year-old son, while also expecting a baby this coming April.

May all glory be to our heavenly Father!

Further News from St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi:

Rev. Keith Lee finished the further education and came back from Hong Kong on December 19, 2008. We thank Rev. Jason Ke for his help, the church went along well during Rev. Lee's absence.

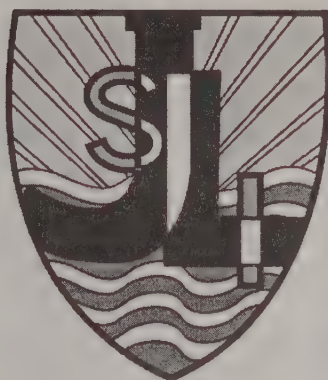
After Rev. Lee's return, on Christmas Eve, we had a Christmas banquet, the turkey roasted by Rev. Ke was extremely delicious. Then followed the Christmas Eve sung service. We had 45 people at church on Christmas Eve, some of them

were friends of our brothers and sisters', and a few guests were neighbors living nearby.

On the night of Dec. 31, a 2008 farewell (farewell to 2008!) dinner was held. Most of our parishioners attended, and we all had a very nice fellowship. Then, the Holy Name Eucharist Service was held right after the dinner. In the Service, we gave thanks for the year which was almost gone, and we prayed for God to grant us faith, hope and courage, to go forth

St. James' Language Institute
Mr. Jerry Liang (梁金連), Director

The idea of setting up the **St. James' Language Institute** came originally from Rev. Charles C. T. Chen, Rector Emeritus of St. James' Church. He is a great man of vision, and believed that the time had come for us to start a new ministry. I have been a church member for many years, and serve as the Church warden for the English congregation. After I took early retirement from teaching, the Rev. Charles Chen invited me to join their team as Director of the Language Institute. At first I declined, in fact I declined many times! He encouraged me, and now more than one year later, our dream has come to pass.



The most important hurdle was to obtain a license from the Taichung City Government. At the start we hired an agent to do this for us. He advised us on all the remodeling of the buildings that would be necessary, and all the requirements for the new classrooms. The rules are very specific and detailed. After all the remodeling was finished, we applied

for the license. Two months later we heard that the government had refused our application. We were heartbroken!

A 'buxiban' / cram school / language institute in Taiwan is counted as a business, but St. James is a church and a charity and therefore not allowed to run a business.



(The kindergarten comes under the category of 'education' so doesn't count as a business).

Finally the agent gave up and re-tuned all the documents to us. We decided to handle the whole application ourselves and to continue to pursue the license. I went to the government offices every day, wanting to discuss with the person responsible, about what we should do next. Every day I went, and every day the person was busy or at a meeting or out! I sat and waited, reading my Bible. I went every day for over a week, waiting over 2 hours each time. I was inspired by the parable of the Persistent Widow in the Gospels!

Finally I got a chance to meet the right person. I discovered that he knew my wife professionally and also my neighbor. I called my neighbor and he offered to put in a good word for us. Finally on September 8, 2008, we obtained a "short-term *buxiban*" (cram school) license from the Taichung City Government. Praise God!

We discovered that there are already approximately 1,500 '*buxiban*' officially registered in Taichung City, and it is rumored that there are another 1,000 or so without a proper license. Why, then, did we want to set up this new *buxiban*? What is our main purpose for running this language institute?

We hope that our students will not only improve their language skills but also enrich their multi-culture knowledge, so that they can get into a whole new state of mind, "capable of communicating and sharing with others" or, in the words of the Rev. Charles Chen, "truly able to love and help others."

In addition to English classes (e.g. Basic English Conversation, Tourist English, English Writing, etc), students can also attend one or more "second foreign language"



classes such as Japanese, Korean, and Spanish, all of which are taught by qualified teachers.

Despite having a business license, **St. James' Language Institute** was not set up for "making money" -- The scripture says, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks" (Matthew 4:4). This language institute, under the guidance of the Diocese of Taiwan, is one of the five aspects of St. James' Vision. It always carries higher spiritual values in its language education. May the Lord bless it!

A postscript: Bishop Lai (acting rector of St. James' at present) has appointed Rev. Charles Chen, our Rector Emeritus, as consultant priest presiding over the realization of St. James' Parish Vision. We are his co-workers, shown in the photo above. This includes myself, Jerry Liang, director of the institute, Rain Tsai vice director, and our teachers/clerks Patty Lin, Amy Wang, Michelle Hsiao, Shannen Jeng, etc -- we are now trying our best to promote **St. James' Language Institute** so as to make St. James' Parish Vision come true.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS AT ST. JAMES!

On January 4, 2009, Rector Emeritus, Rev. Charles C. T. Chen and his wife, MaryJo, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at St. James' Church. Bishop David Lai presided at the service, which was held as part of the morning Eucharist. 50 years ago when Charles and MaryJo were married, they were not Christians and so were married according to Taiwan's local folk religion customs. So their Golden Wedding celebrations were



earlier to take a series of wedding photos in different costume outfits and the album was presented as a gift. Bishop and Lily Lai presented them with a special teapot with 2 spouts, one on each side, especially for couples to use! A large 2-tier wedding cake was wheeled into the church and the congregation sang a congratulatory song, the cake

was ceremonially cut, and bouquets of flowers and gifts were presented to the happy couple.



extra-special because this was the first time they had celebrated their marriage in a church. It was a very moving occasion for all of us present!

Charles and MaryJo said their vows to each other, exchanged rings and watched as their 2 sons, 2 daughters-in-law and 5 grandchildren performed songs in their honor, accompanied on the violin by 2 of their grandsons. Their daughter and her family live in the USA and so were unable to be present. An official photographer had come a few days

The celebrations followed a confirmation earlier in the service when 2 of the Chen's grandsons were confirmed, most appropriate for this occasion. The service was followed by lunch in the church hall with special refreshments in honor of the celebrations and a large family meal later that same evening. We give thanks to God for the many blessings he has brought on the Chen family, and for the witness that this celebration brought to the community. There was hardly a dry eye in the church by the end!

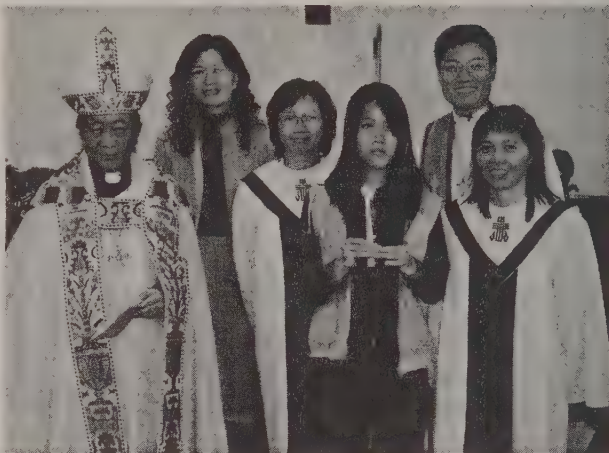


Confirmation at St. James' Church

OTHER RECENT EVENTS AT ST. JAMES'

Throughout this past year, St. James' has encouraged its church members and others to participate in the 'New Life Course'. This is originally from the Baptist Church and is a sort of follow on from the Alpha course. In this case, it is especially suitable for those who are willing to accept the truth of the gospel and who are hoping to be baptized. This past semester, over 10 weeks, a total of 28 people took part in the New Life Course of which 14 fully completed the course. There were 2 groups, one for those who are not yet Christians ~20 people were in this group, and one for church members ~8 were in this group, the smaller number due to the fact that most of the church members have already completed the course. Just before Christmas, a party was held after the morning service to mark the completion of the course, and presentations were made. A large number of the non-Christians who participated were a group of women who work for the 'Mary Kay' company selling cosmetics, they came to the party with their children and husbands. A great witness to the community!

Another development at St. James' in recent months has been the opening of the counseling center under the leadership of Mrs. Liu Ai-Ru, a fully-trained and qualified counselor. The counseling center has been in existence on and off for many years, but this is the first time that it has a qualified counselor whose whole purpose it is to develop the work of the center. Mrs. Liu has brought together a team of voluntary counselors, and the 5th floor classrooms have been specially adapted for use as a counseling center. The



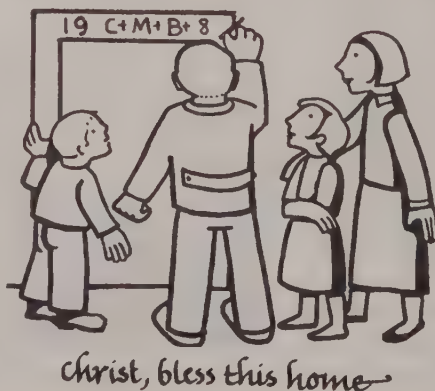
Baptism of Julia Chang, daughter of Ms. Susan Chen, Assistant Principal of St. James' Kindergarten

center is now officially open Tuesdays to Fridays, 6 hours a day. The team specialize in one to one counseling for personal problems.

On November 29, 2008, a group from St. James' Church traveled to Tainan to visit former church member, Ms. Hsieh Ching-Ping and her family. Ching-Ping was a teacher at St. James' Kindergarten for many years, and was baptized and confirmed in the church. She was also married in the church and her baby son was baptized there last year. Her husband is a high school teacher from Tainan and last summer the family decided to move back to Tainan. 10 people from St. James, and 5 from Grace

Church, Tainan went to their new home to visit, and to have a home blessing service.

On December 24, 2008, the Christmas Eve service at St. James was attended by nearly 170 people, many from the local community. A few days later on December 27, the St.



James' community service center held a Christmas celebration for all the different groups of people who come to the church for classes of various kinds. A total of over 300 people came, adults and children, in fact there were so many that the celebrations were separated into 2 groups, one in the church and one in the 7th floor meeting area of the new Education building. There were displays of drums, drama, singing, music and the telling of the Christmas story. Praise God for the ministry of St. James'!

Retired priest, Rev. David Chee, has agreed to act as 'Supply Priest' for the English congregation, and comes to St. James twice a month from his home near Tamsui.

The Rev. Philip Lin also takes care of the small mission station the Church of the Leading Star in Taiping in the absence of a resident parish worker. The church members meet regularly for worship each Sunday, and on the 4th Sunday of each month, seminarian Simon Chou Tsai-Shin leads a Bible study there after the main service.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Mr. Timothy Chen Jer-Ren 陳致仁傳道



At St. Luke's Church, there is a 'Happy Club' held for children in the local community on Saturdays. There are different activities from 2:00-4:00 pm, including songs, games, watching videos and telling stories to help children to enjoy staying in church and to have more opportunities to know God who loves them.

During the Advent season there was an Advent Festival of Lessons and carols held on December 19 to help the congregation of St. Luke's to prepare their hearts and to wait for the coming of Christmas. The photos show the Christmas Eve celebrations at St. Luke's. Clearly a happy time was had by all! St. Luke's Church evangelist and parish worker, Mr. Timothy Chen and his family are preparing to move to work at St. Johns' Cathedral in Taipei.



TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

One Sunday December 14, 2008, Trinity Church and St. Stephen's Mission held a one day trip to Tashee Resort in Tao-Yuan County, the former holiday home of former Taiwan President Jiang. Located up in the mountains, it is ideal for a day out. The Sunday morning service was held at the resort followed by a meal and free time. 101 people (shown in the photo below) attended this special Christmas outing, including some non-Christians, who report being very moved by the experience and want to come regularly to the church as a result.



Baptisms at Trinity Church

A new program for 2009 is Evangelism Training, in accordance with the Diocesan Development Plan. This 13-week program started on January 1, and consists of both training and practical evangelism. Each session lasts for 3 hours, half the time for training and half for evangelism. The course will finish on Easter Day. The practical evangelism involves going out in groups of three, two of the group are new

Christians, and one is already trained with some experience of evangelism. 30 people are participating in the course, 7 are adults and they meet on Monday mornings, 23 are young people, mostly teenagers, and they meet after the Saturday evening service. Each person is being trained so that they should be able to share the gospel for up to an hour at a time, thus at a greater depth



than previously taught.

Our hope is that: 160 people will hear the gospel as a result of this evangelism, 99 of whom will make a commitment to Christ, and 25 will go on to be baptized and become members of the church. Prayer is

most important in this, and we are following a program of prayer called 'Revival 999'. For 99 days, a team of 9 people are praying every morning in Trinity Church from 6:00-7:30 am. Please join us in praying that this program will bear fruit!

ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

Mrs. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華傳道

Last autumn, we had some friends to visit from Taiwan Yahoo Company. They all came as volunteer teachers for our homework classes. A group of 19 people came on October 15 and a different group of 18 people came on October 22. Children were lured not only by the delicious food but also the wonderful program they led. As for our friends, they spent a half day with the kids at St. Stephen's Church. All of them wish to come to visit us again in this year.



Our homework classes after school continue to attract many children. We have 30 children and 4 teachers and hope that this can be increased in the future. We also plan to start up classes for unemployed women, especially local mothers. Many have no qualifications and find it difficult to get decent jobs. We particularly want to offer training and opportunities to obtain professional licenses to help them in their search for regular employment.



St. Stephen's is a lively place (see photos) and is becoming well-established in the community with support from the principal of the local elementary school, the local government officials, the police and community leaders. All see the value of this ministry and encourage us to develop it further. We continue to rely on donations to pay the rent for the mission center. The monthly rent is NT\$ 15,000, of which 40% is paid by the diocese and 60% by Trinity Church and donations. We dream of buying an apartment in the future!

Plans are also well in progress to start an Alpha course this coming semester as well as a Bible class for parents and children. Please pray for this ministry and its development!

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Mrs. Grace Yang Li-Shiang 楊麗香傳道

As reported in the previous Friendship Magazine, St. Marks' Church hosted the local community clinic in early September, offering free health checks for local people. 64 people visited (see right photo). On Saturday December 20, St. Mark's invited these people to return to St Mark's to celebrate Christmas together. Local children, parents, and church members also came, a total of 85 people. We had singing, puppet show, food, and a free lucky draw.



On December 27, a group of 10 church members from St. Mark's were joined by a group of 8 from St. Timothy's, Kaohsiung

in visiting Ping-Tung People's Hospital (see left photo), together with Rev. Justin Lin from St. Timothy's. We had Santa Claus with us too! As well as the hospital we also visited 6 church members' homes for home blessings. In the hospital we met one old lady over 100 years old and gave her a special blessing!



On Christmas Eve, retired priest Rev. Hu, celebrated the Eucharist for us and 30 people came, followed by cakes and gifts for all.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

During the Christmas season, we had more than 10 different activities at St. Timothy's. One of these was a very exciting Children's Creative Competition, where the children were encouraged to use their creative skills to make something for Christmas. The church looked beautiful!

We also had the annual Church Bazaar, and raised over NT\$ 70,000 for Ping-Tung Christian Hospital, to give help to the un-

der-privileged families in their care. We visited this hospital last year so we know their needs, and the valuable work that they do in the community.

Over 10 days around Christmas, we visited a total of 51 different places to share the good news of Jesus' birth. This included 40 different homes. Every day we went out in groups of 5-10 to sing and bring God's blessings on these homes. It included sev-

eral places outside, or in large apartment buildings where we sang in the entrance lobby and invited all those who lived there to take part.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we had 5 people baptized, and 7 people confirmed by Bishop David Lai (see photo below).

On Christmas Eve, December 24, we had a special Christmas Eucharist with a drama after the sermon. After the service we went out into the local neighborhood singing Christmas songs and bringing blessing to the local people. 130 people came to the service. A very happy occasion!

Autumn Retreat for St. Timothy's and St. Mark's church members



Baptisms and confirmations at St. Timothy's

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三會吏

On Sunday November 23, a group of 32 from Grace Church spent the day in Shin-Hua Forest, near Tainan, where we had our Sunday service and meal. The group also included 2 overseas students presently studying at Tainan Theological College, Rev. Emmanuel from Zambia, and Rev. K.C. Severaj from South India.



On November 29, we joined with a group from St. James' Church to visit Ms. Hsieh Ching-ping and her family, who have moved to a new home in Tainan (see photo above right).

On Advent Sunday, Bishop Lai came to Grace Church for a confirmation service, 4 people were confirmed (see photo below).

On December 20, the church combined with the kindergarten for a big Christmas celebration including children, parents and

church members as well as local people. Over 150 people came for a time of singing, mandolin playing, eating and sharing together.

We were very pleased that on Christmas Eve, all the kindergarten teachers came to the Christmas service, and performed their hand bells. 32 people came altogether, and we donated all the offerings to underprivileged children. We also gave everyone an apple, a sign of peace at Christmas. In Chinese language, the first character of the word for apple, 'ping-guo' is the same 'ping' sound as the word for peace 'ping-an'. Before the service everyone came early for us to share a meal together.

On Saturday January 3, one of our oldest church members, Mrs. Wang invited us to her home for a meal. Everyone took a dish of food, and it was lovely to eat together at her home.



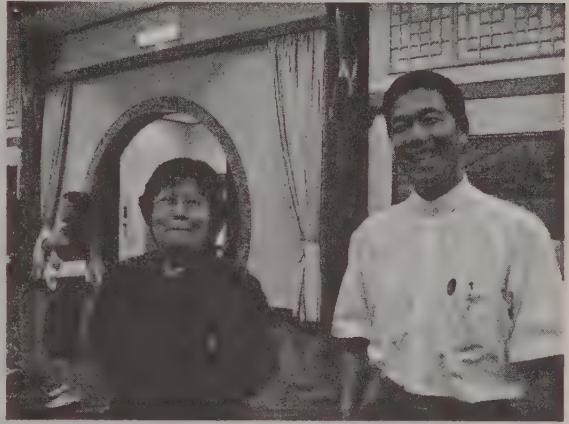
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. June Chou Yun-Guang 周韞光牧師

Recent activities at St. Paul's Church have included:

A Christmas Eve service for 35 people.
A Christmas celebration on December 21 for 72 people, including the kindergarten teachers drama, and the English Bible class singing.

The wedding of 2 church members, Mr. Chen and Ms. She on November 8.
All the southern deanery attending 'Introduction to the Holy Eucharist', led by Rev. Leo Tzeng on November 30.



Rev. June Chou and Rev. Sam Cheng

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

Every week, about 10 young people gather for the Youth Fellowship. In between movies, hotpot, parties etc, we are studying the Emmaus Course. None of these young people are Christians, so we are glad to welcome them to the church.

Every week we also have a Flower-Arranging Class, led by Mrs. Susan Liao, wife of former Rector. Rev. Samuel Liao. 2 of the arrangements are for the church, so every Sunday the church looks beautiful!

From December 7, we have started an adult Sunday School held every Sunday after the Sunday service. We are studying the 'History of Israel from the Bible'. About 10 people attend. Once a month this is followed by a potluck meal together.

On December 7 in the afternoon, we joined with the Kang-Shan Presbyterian Church for an afternoon Christmas celebration and

fun day held in the local park. There were about 1000 people who came!

On December 20 we went out into the local area to share the good news of Jesus, about 20 of us went, and this was followed by visiting 2 of our housebound church members. On December 21 we had a Christmas celebration during the service, followed by a potluck meal.

The Christmas Eve service saw about 50-60 people in the church, and everyone was presented with a 'breakfast box' for Christmas morning. After everyone had gone home, by long-standing tradition, the church members spent the rest of the evening electing their new Vestry members. An unusual tradition for Christmas Eve!

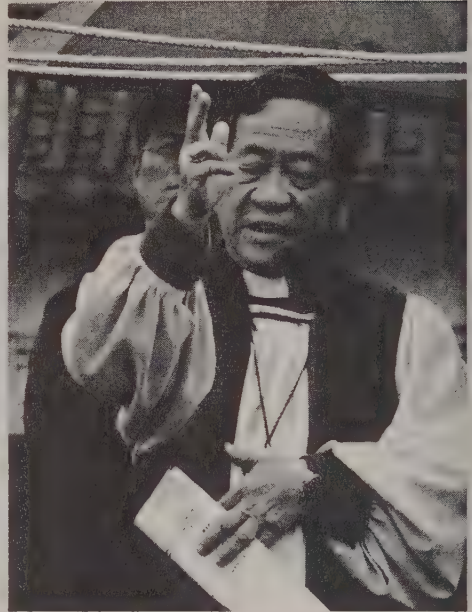
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

On Monday January 5, 2009, the Ground-Breaking Ceremony was held at St. John's University to launch the construction work for a new set of university buildings. These will replace 5 separate buildings that were built as part of the original quadrangle that formed St. John's University when it was first opened forty years ago.

Up until now, the main administrative building has formed the front part of the quadrangle, with the 4 classroom buildings round the sides, with an extra one off in the far corner. Over the years, all the buildings have clearly deteriorated beyond repair, and the classrooms have been declared unsafe for use. Two of the classroom buildings were demolished last year due to safety concerns.

The new buildings have been at the planning stage for several years and we are grateful to the Board of Trustees for making the final decision to go ahead and rebuild. The architects have designed a magnificent set of buildings around the original quadrangle, incorporating traditional Chinese design with modern technology. The main administrative building will be built in the same position as the original one, with a set



Bishop David Lai gives the blessing on the construction project

of classroom buildings around the quadrangle, all linked together as one. All the buildings will be 5 stories high.

The total cost of the building project is NT\$400 million (approx US\$12 million), and it is hoped that construction can be completed within about 18 months. The classroom buildings are the first priority, and need to be finished by the end of 2009 in order to comply with Department of Education regulations for setting the quotas for the number of students that can be admitted to St. John's University for the following academic year. In the meantime, administrative staff are being scattered around the campus in temporary office accommodation, many in the basement of the library. All of us are looking forward to the completion of the new buildings!



Ground-Breaking Ceremony

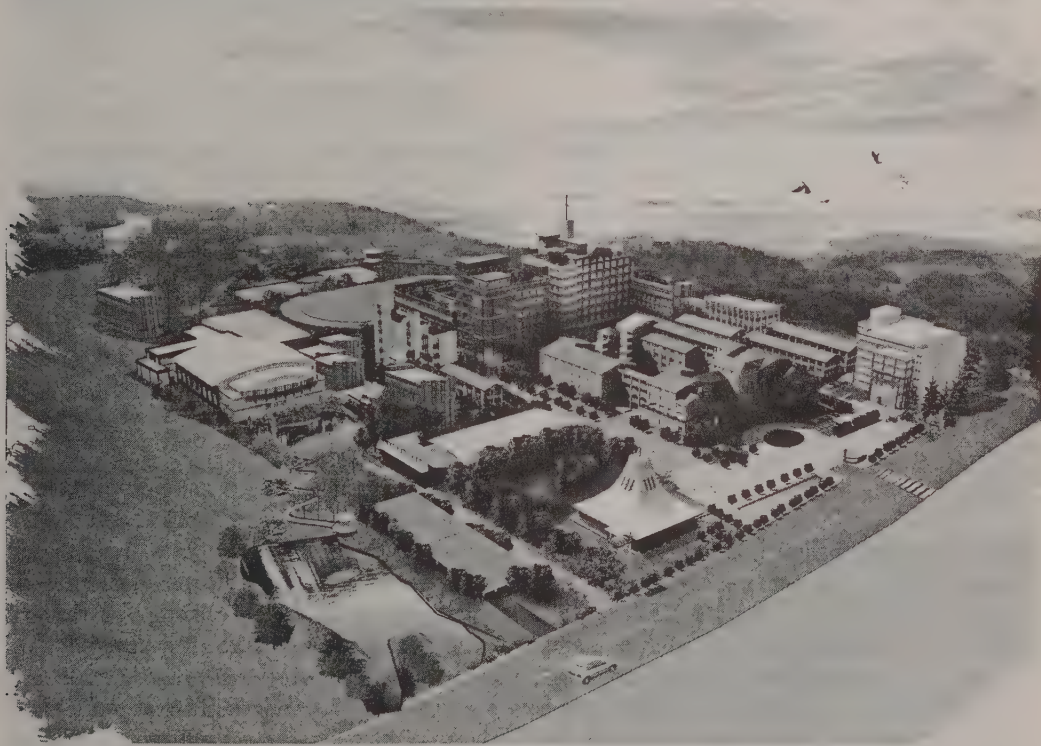
As well as the new buildings, the construction project also plans for the removal of the outside surrounding wall of the campus, allowing for easier access and creating a more attractive appearance to those passing by. We want people to gain the impression that the university is welcoming and approachable, willing to cooperate and be involved with the world around it, rather than isolated behind impenetrable walls.

The accompanying photos show the Ground-Breaking Ceremony, presided over by the Chaplain, Rev Dr. Lennon Y. R. Chang. The Bishop of Taiwan, the Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai gave the sermon and blessing, and was accompanied by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Chen Jean-Lien, President of St. John's University, and hon-

Ground-Breaking Ceremony



orable guests. The rain did not dampen our spirits and we trust that God will bless this building project!



What the new St. John's University buildings should look like!

ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rong 張員榮牧師

For the first 9 months of 2008, the average number of people at the Advent Church Sunday service was 85, but from October to December 2008, this number went up to 98. While the church itself is big enough to accommodate this number, the meeting rooms at the back of the church are way too small.

After the Sunday service, the congregation eats together, and for such a vast number of people, the rooms are all packed out with many people taking their food outside to eat, where it is either way too hot in summer or bitterly cold and wet in winter. So at the same time as St. John's University is starting construction on its new university buildings, Advent Church, located on the campus of St. John's University, is planning its own construction project. Another leap of faith!

There is a real need to increase the number of meeting rooms and their size. The vision of Advent Church is to build a new Parish Center, with a large hall, kitchen, and meeting rooms. Such a center would also enable the Chaplaincy team, at present housed in a cramped office in the main administrative buildings at the university (and about to be moved in an even more cramped space in the library basement) to move into the Parish Center and thus incorporate the spiritual ministry of the campus and church all together under one roof.

Advent Church also sees this new Parish Center as being a Center of Evangelism and Outreach to the surrounding area. In accordance with the Diocesan 10 year development plan, we envisage using this center as a base from which to train teams of people to go out to evangelize in all the towns and villages northwards up the coast as far as Jin-Shan. Coastal areas in Taiwan are noto-



riously resistant to the gospel, with few churches but hundreds of Taoist and Buddhist temples. In the past year, more and more local people have started to come to Advent Church, many speaking only Taiwanese, and church members are now leading Bible studies in Taiwanese. Rev. Lennon Chang and his wife have a

New Year Resolution for 2009: to learn Taiwanese!

On Christmas Eve 2008, a total of 9 people were baptized at the evening service. 2 were students, one was the church administrator (seen in the photo), two local ladies, and one family of 4; all are first generation Christians. Retired Bishop John Chien and his wife spent Christmas with us, preaching at both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. At the university Christmas service on December 25, the rector Rev. Lennon Chang presented to the President of St. John's University, Dr. Chen Jean-Lien, a cheque for NT\$ 2,350,000. This is the third and final installment of the payment due to St. John's University for the costs of the new stained glass installed last year. By previous agreement, St. John's University and Advent Church each agreed to pay NT\$ 5 million towards the artwork costs.

Clearing this debt also now enables Advent Church to go ahead and plan for the new Parish Center building project. Plans have already been drawn up. Due to limited space as well as the need to complement and fit in with the design of the Advent Church building, the new Parish Center will be built behind the church, and will be built 2 stories downwards rather than upwards, making use of the hill that Advent Church is built on. It will also be built in a way that is environmentally friendly. Watch this space!

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Diane Wong

CREDO

During October, the Rev Lily Chang had the opportunity to participate in a CREDO conference in Mississippi, USA, funded and organized by The Episcopal Church. The purpose of CREDO is outlined on their website: 'to provide opportunities for people to examine significant areas of their lives and to discern prayerfully the future direction of their vocation as they respond to God's call in a lifelong process of practice and transformation'.

She says: 'I offer grateful thanks to the CREDO facilitators, clergy and staff for their help, enthusiasm and support. It was a wonderful week spent together with other clergy from all over the USA, and all of whom were serving as rectors of their parishes. I felt that my calling was renewed, my spirit was refreshed, and I was encouraged to take care of myself and to keep go-

ing and not give up. Each day as we prayed together the Morning and Evening Prayer, I came to understand more fully the depth and the place of the Anglican liturgy in daily life'.



Rev. Lily Chang at CREDO, second from right

GOOD SHEPHERD KINDERGARTEN 40th ANNIVERSARY



On November 15, 2008, the Good Shepherd Kindergarten celebrated its 40th anniversary. Former students and teachers were invited to return for a 'homecoming' event and celebration. Over 200 people attended, included Bishop John Chien, retired Bishop

of Taiwan and also former rector of the Good Shepherd Church. The Rev. Edmund Der, who founded the kindergarten, sent a congratulatory e-mail from his home in Canada, which was read out at the celebrations. Incidentally, the son of the Rev Edmund Der is married to the daughter of Bishop John Chien, so it was almost a family occasion anyway!

The celebrations were followed by a bazaar outside in glorious sunshine, after a week of heavy rain. God certainly blessed us! A total of NT\$ 330,000 was raised at the bazaar, which will go towards the work of the Good Shepherd Senior Service Center and its ministry among elderly people who live alone.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

English Chaplain: Rev. Diane Wong

The last year has been an active one for Church of the Good Shepherd's English-speaking congregation. The congregation is small and consists of largely roving members, yet we all do our best to cover the various offices at worship and enable the various activities of the congregation functioning.

We have two Bible Study groups that meet regularly; we intentionally devise ways to grow the congregation, and to witness God's love for all people through our outreach ministry at St. Anne's Home, a home for people with severe mental disabilities; and at Animals Taiwan, a holding center for stray dogs and cats. It has been important for us to develop a fellowship with the English-speaking Congregation at St James' Church, Taichung to support each other's struggles and ministries.

As a member of the congregation, I find it both challenging and encouraging being in a group who are so dedicated and ready to serve. Most live busy lives, balancing their daily work with family commitments, and yet still find time ministries of our congregation.

In the broader community, we also had an active year. We have had several visits from SOS Children's Village. Remembrance Day featured strongly in our congregation over the last year. Several of us attended a film viewing on FEPOW Day organised by POW Taiwan during August. This film was both disturbing and informative; highlighting the sacrifices made by many on both sides (Allied and Axis) during the Second World War, and the power of the human spirit and faith. The importance of faith was shown during the Remembrance Day Service held in conjunction with the British Trade Office in November. The service was very moving and I felt in my heart the value and importance of the sacrifices made

by those who fought in the wars, and are still being made in wars and conflicts all over the world now.

Given the fact that many of us are single people who are living away from our countries of origin, many of us are alone here in Taiwan. Belonging to a faith community of expatriates has enabled us to find a spiritual home that plays a very important role in our lives. It is a place where we can seek spiritual fulfilment and meet friends. We are working hard to build up the congregation. Also, as a Church, we hope to be able to continue the reconstruction and development programme. This programme was put on hold because of the increase in building costs.

Much of living in Taiwan involves a step in faith. As a member of the expatriate community, I am faced daily with challenges. These challenges involve working and living with people who speak a different language and have different social and cultural practices. Much of these challenges can be resolved through good-will and acceptance. Faith forms an important part of this as it gives us the patience to know that we are all under God and to see Him in others – even when patience and understanding are not enough. I also find that Faith forms an important part of my work as a teacher. Students can ask searching questions and being able to answer in a classroom where cultural differences exist and where there are language difficulties can be challenging. Increasingly it is becoming apparent that some young people are looking for answers and hope that the Church and Christianity may meet their needs. I hope that I can be enough of a Christian that I can sow the necessary seed in their lives.

By Kevin Roehl,

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

From October to December 2008, we held our 8th Alpha Course. Two courses are held every year. This semester, 12 people attended, of which half were newcomers and half were assistants. 4 of these newcomers are not yet baptized. Also in October, we started the 6th and final year of the



Nehemiah 52-day Activity Course. This is related to the book 'The Purpose Driven Life' and has a different theme for each year. This year the theme is Evangelism.

Now in 2009 we are studying a book together on the subject of the Evangelistic Life. The whole church is being encouraged to read this book over a period of 8 weeks. 6 Sunday sermons during this time are being devoted to the subjects covered in the book and the Sunday afternoon fellowship groups are also studying the book together. It is a wonderful way of training the whole congregation to reach out to others.

We are also involved in the '5555 Intercession Course', to help prepare for the next Alpha Course. Each church member is invited to pray for:

5 non-Christian friends or family members for

5 minutes each day over a period of 5 months. They are asked to pray for 5 blessings for each of these people, following the letters in the word 'BLESS':
Body (Health),
Labour (Work),
Emotions,
Social Relationships
Spiritual Life.

We were sorry to say a rather unexpected goodbye to Seth and Elizabeth Raymond on December 26, 2008 as they left to return to the USA. Their time with us was shorter than we had hoped and planned for, but we are grateful for their help, particularly with the Bible studies and the Taize services. We wish them God's blessings on their future service as they prepare to start seminary in the fall.

On March 1, 2009, Mr. Timothy Chen, at present evangelist and parish worker in charge of St Luke's Church, Hualien will take up his responsibilities as Evangelist and Parish Worker at St. John's Cathedral. This is a cathedral appointment and the cathedral will pay his salary. He is already very familiar with the Episcopal Church, and is keen to serve, so we request your prayers as he and his family settle into this new role.



THE BALM OF GILEAD FOR A VISITOR'S GRIEF:
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI
EASTER VIGIL, 22 MARCH 2008

The following article is an extract from a longer article written by Professor Mei-Mei Lin and published in the September 2008 edition of 'Anglican and Episcopal History', Volume 77, Number 3, Pages 322-327. It is published here with the publisher's kind permission.

On 22 March 2008, Holy Saturday, in great heat and humidity, a visitor makes her way to St. John's Cathedral in Taipei to attend the evening service and Easter Vigil. She comes in mourning, for she has just lost her dearest mother, who passed away right after the Chinese New Year festival at the age of ninety. On her way to the cathedral, she feels that she is truly a parentless child, for she has lost her mother's guidance and care in this world. But she is all the more eager to seek God's guidance and to put herself in his great care. In her deep sorrow, she knows that her mother will not return from her grave. By the time she comes to the door of St. John's, her burden is very heavy indeed. For this visitor, the service this evening will prove to be an unforgettable and awesome experience.

As the service begins, the congregation of about 75 persons forms a circle in front of the chapel. Dean Lin leads a prayer. As an acolyte rings the church bell, the dean lights the Paschal Candle. In the darkness, he addresses the meaning of this service in a few words. There follows a procession to the chancel: the beloved retired bishop, John C. T. Chien, in rochet and chimere; the dean, in alb and cope; the acolytes and choir, in cassock and surplice; and members of the congregation, all holding small unlit vigil candles in hand. The group pauses 3 times and says, in Mandarin, "The light of Christ. Thanks be to God!" The small vigil candles are then lit from the Paschal Candle. C. N. Young, the retired warden who still serves as the convocation secretary, says the Exultet in Mandarin, and Dean Lin leads the Liturgy of the Word for the Easter Vigil, using the Chinese Bible—the so-called

'union version', collectively produced in 1919 by Western missionaries and Chinese Christian leaders of different denominations in Mainland China.

The liturgy is taken from the latest copy of the Chinese Prayer Book, a masterpiece in updated Chinese based on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church in the United States. This translation reflects the stewardship and dedication of the senior clergy of the Taiwan Episcopal Church. According to the Rev. Michael Ting-hua Liu, the head of the Prayer Book Project, it took the clerical team 18 years to complete the translation. It was released in experimental form at the annual diocesan convocation held earlier this year. Bishop David J. H. Lai pronounced his decision to the convocation delegates that he was giving the members of St. John's Cathedral the special task of testing the accuracy of this experimental version during their regular church services for a whole year, prior to revision before publication for broader circulation. The church members at St. John's will check this copy word by word, sentence by sentence, page by page, to assist the diocese in making a satisfactory final edition.

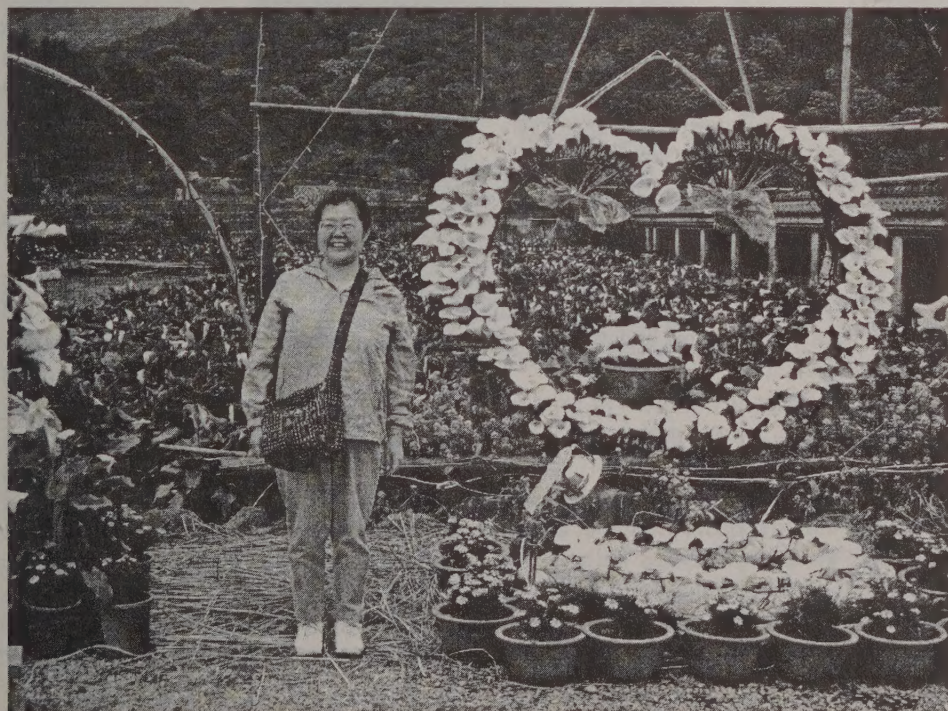
In his sermon, Bishop John Chien proclaims the resurrection as the very core of Christianity: no resurrection, no church. It is a great mystery of faith to people throughout the sweep of history, including the apostle Paul and those dwelling in Taiwan today. Resurrection signifies the transfiguration from a body of flesh to a spiritual body, and the process from humiliation to glory, from weakness to strength, and from human de-

pravity to everlasting life. Furthermore, it indicates the beginning of new creation. With God's guidance and help, faithful Christians can truly be reborn with a renewed and blessed life, daring to face death and emboldened to talk about death and faith to other people, Christian and non-Christian, in a Chinese cultural context. The risen Christ continues to do miracles, one generation after another. The visitor has felt blessed to hear the bishop proclaim why Christianity is still a living religion today, even in a predominantly Confucian-Buddhist-Taoist social context.

After the sermon, 5 adults and 4 children are baptized, and then the Eucharist is celebrated by the bishop, assisted by the dean. It is the first time that the visitor has had the privilege of receiving the bread from Bishop John Chien, who has spent most of his time since his retirement in 2001, in Tainan, his hometown in Chia-Yi County. The visitor humbly kneels down and stretches out her hands. At that precious moment she thinks about the mission of Taiwanese Anglicanism during the first half of the 21st

century. When she returns to her seat, she looks at the images of the 5 fish and 2 loaves of bread hanging on the wall behind and above the reredos, with the windows of Jesus at prayer and Jesus preaching, and all of a sudden she knows that she does not need to be worried any more about her daily life in this secular world. As the service comes to a close, the sermon as well as the ceremony reminds her that Jesus Christ has won over the power of death and has risen, and she feels even more determined than ever to submit herself to God. She reflects, too, that with the production of the Chinese Prayer Book, and also another project of the Taiwanese clergy, *The Psalter Set to Music*, the Diocese of Taiwan has made a great contribution to the indigenization of Christianity in the Chinese context. An acculturated Anglicanism has finally come to be formed here, and the Episcopal Church has a strong foundation in Taiwan in the early 21st century.

Mei-Mei Lin, National Dong Hwa University, Hualien, Taiwan. (author shown in the photo below)



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The Episcopal Dio-
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The Rt. Rev. David J.
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The LORD bless you
and keep you always!